16th June 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers,

<u>Internet Safety Reminders</u>

We hope you are having a great week so far!

Internet safety - we realise that some children may be spending more time online due to the current situation and the children having more time on their hands and more hours to fill each day! The internet presents a wealth of learning opportunities for children and is a huge resource for all, even adults! It is also a great way for the children to 'stay connected' with friends and relatives. However, we need to ensure that we provide our children with the skills to access this new way of working, socialising and playing in a safe way – especially when our children are currently being asked to use computers, tablets and other devices to access the school learning platform, other online links and activities sent by school.

Sadly, as we now know from the recent government announcement, the majority of our children will not be able to return to school until at least September. Therefore, we wanted to refresh with parents both the positives and negatives of children being online and ask you to talk to your child/ren about the potential dangers that can occur through the use of the internet and social media apps. We wanted to ask you to reinforce to your child/ren how important it is to use the internet respectfully and safely.

Staying in control of your children's internet use, can prove challenging, especially when our children are so confident navigating computers and seem to know more about them than us! For information about how you are able to review or update parental controls for apps and devices, please see https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/ for more information. This website is helpful as it provides parents with simple to follow instructions for how to keep your children safe at home.

The internet can be an amazing resource and really helps to open the world up to the children but our highest priority is ensuring that children remain safe whilst online and ensuring they know what action to take should they come across anything that is inappropriate or causes them distress. Please remember to check the age restriction/ratings suggested on the apps and games, as some of these are not suitable for younger children, due to them not being emotionally mature enough to process or comprehend the content.

If you require any further support with regards to the internet and social media apps, please contact the school office or speak to Mrs Woodhouse (computing co-ordinator).

Have a great week!

Kind Regards

Mrs Milford